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DEVIZES BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1972



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D E V I Z E S   B O R O U G H   C O U N C I L

(As at 31st December 1972)

THE MAYOR

Alderman John Robert Lascelles Drake

THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Alderman Joseph Atwell Goulding Peare

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HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Mayor	Alderman J.R.L. Drake
Chairman	Councillor D.J. Godwin
Vice-Chairman	Alderman A.P.J. Duck

Alderman Mrs. Payne  
Alderman Wilson  
Councillor Mrs. Budd  
Councillor Porter  
Councillor Kirby  
Councillor Skittrall  
Councillor Dight  
Councillor Sims



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Staff as at 31st December 1972

Acting Medical Officer of Health

F.D.F. STEEDE, M.B., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

K. WILDEY, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.I., C.G.L.I. (San. Eng)

Additional Public Health Inspector

R. NETHERCOTT from 27th March 1972.

Technical Assistant

D.A.J. DARK until 30th September 1972.

Rodent Operative

W.J. HARRISON

Clerical Staff

MRS. E.E. NOAKES

MISS L.M. DUNNADGE



Public Health Department,  
Northgate House,  
Devizes,  
Wiltshire.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Devizes.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report for the year 1972, which will be less comprehensive than usual since I was appointed on an acting basis in December 1972, following Dr. P.C. Barry's resignation in November. This report is likely to be the last by the Medical Officer of Health since the post will disappear when reorganisation comes into effect on the 1st April 1974.

It may be of interest to know that it will be just over 100 years from the date when it became obligatory under the 1872 Public Health Act for every Urban and Rural Sanitary Authority to appoint a Medical Officer of Health. Although not mandatory, many of the larger towns had already appointed a Medical Officer of Health under the earlier Public Health Act of 1848 and Liverpool City, the first in the field, appointed Dr. Duncan as their Medical Officer of Health in 1847.

The earliest Annual Reports which have been retained in this Department are those written by Dr. G.H.H. Waylen, the first of which is that of 1934. Not surprisingly although the health of the town, as revealed by the quoted vital statistics, appears to have been remarkably good, the report for 1934 is much concerned with the prevalence of communicable disease. Scarlet fever, diphtheria, puerperal fever and pneumonia were all comparatively common. One death out of four notified cases of scarlet fever was not an unusual experience at that time, since sulphonamides were not introduced until a year or so later, and antibiotics did not appear on the scene until the later war years, heralded by penicillin. Vaccination, of course, has now all but eliminated diphtheria and poliomyelitis and could well do the same for measles. No case of typhoid or paratyphoid was notified in this report which in any case were becoming increasingly uncommon as a result, not of any vaccination procedure, but due to the fact that public health engineering was providing a safe mains water supply, together with an increasing number of comprehensive main drainage schemes, for the satisfactory disposal of sewage. There is no denying that Local Government has done a good job in this field over the years, in spite of recurrent stringent financial constraints. Many of us know from personal experience, the difficulties there have been in the not too distant past, in obtaining Central Government Loan Sanction, for what we considered essential services of this type. Nowadays new cases of typhoid and paratyphoid are rare. Last year in the country as a whole there were only 204 cases notified. Of the cases which do occur at the present time in any usual year, half are imported, mainly from the Continent of Europe by travellers.



The general health of the town remains satisfactory. There has been a steady and consistent yearly increase since the War to its present mid-year population figure of 10,150. Again returning to the reports the figure for 1934 was only 6,722.

The adjusted death rate of 9.4 was significantly lower than the national average and marginally lower than the remainder of Wiltshire. The birth rate was higher than the national average. Of the one hundred and forty-three deaths, one hundred and six were over the age of 65. Deaths from cancer of the lung, coronary heart disease and chest conditions such as pneumonia and bronchitis, accounted for forty-two deaths.

I believe that it is well known generally that for practical purposes lung cancer is caused by cigarette smoking. The incidence of coronary heart disease is much higher in smokers and chronic bronchitis if not caused by the habit, is severely adversely affected by it once acquired. I never cease to be surprised at the hold the cigarette has on people who continue to smoke knowing that their health is likely to be irreparably damaged and their expectation of life reduced.

Housing circumstances are reasonably good, though we can never be satisfied until every growing family and old person have accommodation to suit their needs. Clearly we have not reached that situation yet for the number on the waiting-list for general needs is 483 of which 224 are applicants from within the Borough. There are approximately 39 applicants for sheltered accommodation. This low figure of 39 in my experience is only the tip of the iceberg since it is uncommon for an old person to place their name on the list until their circumstances are such that their need is urgent. The more realistic method of calculating their need is by reference to the population structure. Under present conditions I cannot see any danger of over-building in respect of sheltered housing for the aged; much more of this type of accommodation is clearly needed.

This has been yet another exacting year for local authority staff and I am very pleased that the members of the Public Health Department, all credit to them, have managed to maintain their high standard of performance, often in very difficult circumstances.

In recent times I have stressed the need to retain a similar relationship between the Medical Adviser to the new District Council to be made available from the National Health Service as exists at present between the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector. This is particularly important in the area for the control of communicable disease; no longer a killer but still a considerable nuisance. The speed of modern travel can result in a situation arising which needs prompt action while the figures for food poisoning and dysentery remain at a comparatively high level generally.

Since I was appointed in 1964 Marlborough Borough has lost three Public Health Inspectors, generally because they felt their future in the profession was uncertain. I believe that the future of environmental health depends very much on ensuring adequate recruitment to the profession, both as to numbers and quality which in turn depends on a satisfactory career expectation. Since Public Health Inspectors, unlike Engineers, Surveyors and Financial Officers, virtually do not exist outside the local authority field, the responsibility for this is a matter for local government.

/I regret ....



I regret that unlike the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, the appointment of Chief Public Health Inspector is no longer to be a statutory one. I am also sorry that Public Health Inspectors are to lose their security of tenure. A most recent factor which will, I believe, adversely affect both public health and the Public Health Inspectorate is the almost certain loss of responsibility for the control of meat inspection and possibly too "meat-based products" to the veterinary profession, in order to comply and harmonise with E.E.C. procedures. This I regard as a retrograde step, involving fragmentation of responsibility for food hygiene at local authority level on which I have made a special report to all my Councils.

Finally, I should specifically like to thank Mr. K. Wildey and his staff for the support they have given me since I was appointed; nothing has been too much trouble and I appreciate it very much indeed. My thanks are also extended to Dr. F. Wormald and his staff at Salisbury Public Health Laboratory and to Mr. F. Farrage, Engineer of the North Wilts Water Board for his service regarding water samples.

I have the honour to be  
Your obedient Servant,

F.D.F. STEEDE,

Acting Medical Officer of Health



## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	1,420
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	10,150
Number of Habitable Dwellings at 1.4.73.	3,294
Rateable Value at 1.4.73.	£1,151,429
Estimated Product of 1p rate at 1.4.73.	£10,630

## VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 Population \*Standardised.

	Birth Rate		Death Rate	
	1971	1972	1971	1972
Devizes Borough	17.2	20.1	10.0	9.4
England and Wales	16.0	14.8	11.6	12.1
Wiltshire	17.4	16.4	11.6	10.9

\*

Comparability figures are supplied to each District by the Registrar General. These take into account the varying age-sex distribution of the population in different parts of the country. When applied to the local rates they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas.



Vital Statistics (Contd.)

MOTHERS AND INFANTS

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
<u>Live Births</u>			
Number	200	172	175
Rate per 1,000 population	20.1	17.2	17.0
<u>Illegitimate Live Births</u> (Per Cent of Total Live Births)	5	6	5
<u>Stillbirths</u>			
Number	-	4	3
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-	23	17
<u>Total Live and Still Births</u>	200	176	178
Deaths of Infants (under one year)	5	2	6
<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	25	12	34
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	26	12	36
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	-
Neonatal mortality rate			
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	20	12	11
Early neonatal mortality rate			
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	20	12	11
Perinatal mortality rate			
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births	20	34	28



## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1972

The figures given below are taken from the Registrar General's Annual Report:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	0	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	2	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	3	3
Other malignant neoplasms	2	4	6
Diabetes Mellitus	0	1	1
Other endocrine diseases	0	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	1	2
Hypertensive disease	0	2	2
Ischaemic heart disease	29	16	45
Other forms of heart disease	2	2	4
Cerebrovascular disease	6	10	16
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	0	4
Pneumonia	5	7	12
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	2	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	2	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	1	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	1	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality	2	0	2
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	10	11
Motor vehicle accidents	5	0	5
All other accidents	0	1	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	0	1	1
All other external causes	0	1	1
	<hr/> 70	<hr/> 73	<hr/> 143 <hr/>



# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Table A below gives details of cases notified by general practitioners during the past six years and Table B gives details of the age incidence of cases notified in 1972.

TABLE A						
Disease	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Measles	92	10	68	163	13	163
Whooping Cough	6	-	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	11	8	3	8	4	9
Tuberculosis	1	1	1	2	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	1	-	5	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	1	1	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	1

TABLE B							
Disease	Age Groups					Age not known	All Ages
	0-4	5-14	15-44	45-64	65-74		
Scarlet Fever	2	7	-	-	-	-	9
Measles	14	143	2	-	-	4	163
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

## FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning have been notified during the year.



IMMUNISATIONS & SMALLPOX VACCINATION STATISTICS, 1972

DISTRICT - DEVIZES BOROUGH

For providing the figures for immunisations and vaccinations carried out in the district during the year, my thanks are due to the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C.D.L. Lycett.

		Children born in years					1963 -67	1957 -62	OTHERS under 16
		1972	1971	1970	1969	1968			
Primary imms. completed during 1972	Diph.	67	103	5	2	1	4	-	-
	Wh. cough	67	102	5	2	1	-	-	-
	Tetanus	67	103	5	2	1	5	2	1
	Measles	-	90	25	6	1	8	-	-
	Polio.	67	103	5	2	3	2	-	-
Reinforcing imms. given in 1972	Diph.	-	36	89	10	23	111	1	-
	Wh. cough	-	24	69	6	1	12	1	-
	Tetanus	-	37	89	10	23	113	38	-
	Polio	-	35	79	9	24	106	1	-

<u>SMALLPOX<sup>x</sup></u>	M o n t h s				Y e a r s		
Age group	0 - 3	3 - 6	6 - 9	9 - 12	1	2 - 4	5 to 15
Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	4	7	4
Re - vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	1	28

<sup>x</sup> N.B. Vaccination discontinued as a routine measure in early childhood September 1971.



### WATER SUPPLY

Throughout the year there were no complaints about water shortage and all samples of water as taken both by the North Wilts Water Board and the Public Health Inspector gave satisfactory results on tests for purity.

Number of samples taken by -

North Wilts Water Board	52
Public Health Inspector	3

Number of dwellinghouses supplied by -

Public water mains	3,291
Standpipes	3

Number of population supplied by -

Public Water mains	10,147
Standpipes	3

The fluoride content of water supplied from Bourton and Shepherds Shore to the Borough is less than 0.1

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year the Devizes Borough and Rural District Councils embarked upon a joint scheme for the sewage works at Potterne to be reconstructed and enlarged to deal with the outfall from the whole of the Borough, Roundway Hospital and the Village of Potterne. The first phase of the proposed scheme is at tender stage and planned for completion by 1975. This will enable Roundway Hospital sewage works to be abolished. The second phase is planned for completion by 1980 when the Devizes Borough sewage works will become redundant.



SERVICES UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

(a) Milk Supplies

At the end of the year there were eleven retailers operating from two dairies and nine shops licensed to deal in pasteurised, ultra-heat treated and sterilised milk.

39 samples were submitted for statutory testing of which two failed.

There are no dealers licensed to sell raw milk in the Borough.

(b) Ice Cream

Five samples of unwrapped ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination. Two of these did not reach the required standard and checks were made in methods of handling re: hygiene and sterilisation of equipment. Follow-up samples taken and tested produced satisfactory results.

(c) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

The number of food premises subject to these Regulations are grouped in the following categories :-

	No. of Premises
Dairies	2
Fish Shops (Wet)	2
Fish Shops (Fried)	5
Restaurants, cafes etc.	15
Hospitals, Institutions	4
School canteens	8
Factory and Works canteens	10
Licensed Premises	25
Mobile Vans	4
Sweet Shops	5
Bread and Confectionery	6
Market Stalls	21
Public Buildings	2
Guest Houses	1
Hotels	10
Grocers	14
Butchers	5
Greengrocers	5
Multiple Stores	2
Supermarkets	3
Clubs etc.	10
	<hr/>
	159

(d) Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises in the Borough.



## UN SOUND FOOD

The following foods were surrendered by traders as being unfit for human consumption:-

### Raw Meats

90lbs. Pork (School)  
6 Chickens 42 lbs.  
2lbs. 3oz. Collar Bacon

### Canned Food

1 x 6lb. Tin Pork  
1 x 4lb. Pressed Ham  
1 x 4lb. Chopped Pork  
6lb. tin Ox Tongue  
13 tins Fish  
10 tins Minced Beef  
8 tins Irish Stew  
3 tins Ham  
60 tins Fruit

### Frozen Food due to break down of refrigerator

18 pkts. Chips	15 Servings Pork
4 lbs. 2 oz. Pork	7 Beef Dinners
14 pkts. Potato Fritters	43 pkts. Pastry
14 Faggot Dinners	36 pkts. Rissoles
8 pkts. Faggots	2 Cream Sponges
36 Meat Pies	22 pkts. Sausage Meat
3 pkts. Sausage Rolls	1 lb. Strawberries
104 pkts. Vegetables	12 pkts. Steaklets
36 pkts. Beefburgers	109 pkts. Fish
31 Servings Roast Beef	4 cartons of Orange Juice
18 Servings Chicken	374 pkts. Ice-Cream
	50 Desserts

### Fats

$9\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Butter  
 $11\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Cooking Fat  
 $4\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Margarine  
 $4\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Soft Margarine  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Beef Dripping



DEVIZES BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1972

Telephone No. : Devizes 2024.

Northgate House,  
Devizes,  
Wiltshire.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Devizes Borough Council -

On the 1st April 1974 Devizes Borough Council will be absorbed into the Kennet District Council and my post of Chief Public Health Inspector will be transferred into the new organisation. For this reason it will be possible for me to retire five months earlier i.e. on the 31st March 1974 just short of twenty-five years' service, so that this my twenty-fourth contribution to the Medical Officer's Annual Report is likely to be my last.

Housing conditions in particular have changed insofar as some unfit houses have been cleared from sites such as Sheep Street, New Park Street, The Nursery, Church Walk and Rotherstone. It would have given me much pleasure had I been able to include the Hare and Hounds Street Redevelopment and Monday Market Street areas amongst these but, unfortunately, although I strongly recommended that the areas should be dealt with as soon as practicable, the red tape surrounding the schemes seems to have baulked any finality. Also the Council's task in this direction was made difficult by the fact that certain properties have now been listed as being of architectural and historical interest. However, my knowledge of the areas leaves me in no doubt that the most satisfactory way of dealing with the majority of the properties is by clearance.

Two hundred and twenty-nine dwellings have been eliminated by Clearance Orders and approximately two hundred and seventy-five individual unfit houses have been demolished or closed over the past two decades. Generally speaking the latter have not usually been replaced by new dwellings due principally to the location and size of the site. Over the past ten years new housing sites at Broadleas, Drakes Estate, Mayenne Place, Victoria Road and Nursteed have been developed, either by private enterprise or the Council.

Since 1949 the Council have been able to assist owners with grants to modernise, repair and extend the life of their property by the provision of modern amenities. The housing survey was completed this year and detailed information is included on pages 16, 17 and 18 which give an indication of the number of houses lacking modern amenities and in need of repair. The report of the survey of Long Street, Bridewell Street and Morris Lane proposed General Improvement Area was also finished and presented to the Council for their consideration; the relative data is shown on pages 19 and 20. Improvements to some of the properties are progressing gradually although it has not as yet been declared officially a General Improvement Area. Page 18 shows the number of properties improved with grant aid.

/Many small .....



Many small food traders have been squeezed out of business by the big stores and, as a result, problems have altered in character and volume. With the small trader they were principally cleanliness of the premises, storage and handling of the food but with the larger stores who suffer more frequent changes of staff and consequently routine, a closer watch has to be kept on stock rotation, date coding, refrigeration temperatures, dented cans, the keeping apart of cooked and uncooked foods and handling care.

Also, problems have arisen in respect of the emission of noise from badly sited refrigeration, heating and ventilation machinery in the larger stores, as well as noise nuisance from factories to residents in their locality. On the whole management have been most co-operative in remedying noise nuisance as soon as practicable, usually at considerable cost. Pollution of the atmosphere by fumes and fly ash from the incineration of trade refuse gave rise to many complaints, until arrangements were made for the proper storage by bulk containers. These in turn however, have also given cause to problems, due to lack of space and handling of the vast amount of refuse that the stores disgorge daily. Similarly it is possible that these nuisances would not arise in the case of factories if preventive measures were taken into consideration at the planning stage.

Over the years the number of public houses in the Borough has now been reduced to twenty-four. The Brewers have built two new public houses and modernised several more. I receive the utmost co-operation from them whenever any work is required such as the provision of facilities for hand-washing for customers, and improving conditions of food rooms etc. Generally almost every publican now provides snacks or meals, which mean that more frequent visits have to be made to these premises than in earlier days. A high standard of hygiene is maintained by the publicans and it justifies the confidence that the local Magistrates have when consideration is given to the renewal of their licences.

It is envisaged that in the Kennet District Council matters relating to food hygiene will be considerably more complex in view of the fact that agency agreements are to be offered in the composition and labelling of food. I should like to take this opportunity of wishing the new Council every success in this new venture and one hopes that through reorganisation an even higher standard of hygiene practice can be attained.

I feel I must also refer to the progress that has been made by the Borough. In fact, when I first took up my appointment in 1949 the Health Department establishment consisted of myself and a part-time Medical Officer of Health. It now consists of a Junior Clerk, Secretary, Rodent Operative Additional Public Health Inspector, Chief Public Health Inspector and Medical Officer of Health. The post of Technical Assistant set up in 1965 was terminated when the Additional Public Health Inspector was appointed in March 1972; Mr. D.A.J. Dark, Technical Assistant at that time, was transferred to the Surveyor's Department. I should, however, like to record my appreciation of his conscientious assistance over a period of approximately six years. My thanks are also due to all the members of staff for their co-operation and in particular to the Secretary, Mrs. E. Noakes, who has served me and the Devizes Borough Council most loyally, conscientiously and diligently over the past twelve years. I am much indebted to Drs. P.C. Barry and F.D.F. Steede, Mr. J. Diver, Mr. R.E. Paget and Mr. N. Gaterford for their advice and co-operation at all times. May I also acknowledge the kind consideration shown to me by the Health and Housing Committee over the years in my efforts to carry out my duties in accordance with Regulations in the public interest.

K. WILDEY.

Chief Public Health Inspector



## SLUM CLEARANCE - REPAIR OF HOUSES

### Report on Survey Completed

Devizes Borough has no slums. Approximately 95 houses have been classified as unfit. Most of these are in the Hare and Hounds Street Redevelopment and Monday Market Street Areas and the remainder are individual properties closed under Section 16 of the 1957 Housing Act.

At least 473 houses are regarded as capable of being fully modernised. About 125 of these are only marginally below the 12 point standard of which a good proportion would not rank for a grant on account of the minimum £100 limit.

The survey reveals there are only a few dwellings in need of extensive repairs, mainly those which have been or are likely to be listed as being of architectural or historical interest. There are approximately 995 houses which were built before 1914 and 2351 houses subsequently.

Nearly 100 unfit houses have already received the Council's attention and it can be reckoned that these properties may be cleared by 1975/76.

With regard to the rate of modernisation of substandard houses, this depends largely upon the interest and co-operation of the owners of such properties and their tenants and is thus difficult to determine, although there is a growing tendency for newly-weds to become owner/occupiers of old properties and for them to quickly improve and repair with grant aid. High property values and rising building costs also stimulate owners to accelerate the improvement of old properties too. It was discovered that many of the properties lacking all or some amenities were occupied by old persons who do not wish to be disturbed by works of improvement even with grant aid.

Over the past twelve years seventeen private dwellings on average have been improved annually with the aid of standard or discretionary grants. In addition 228 Council houses have been modernised during the last eleven years. Approximately 70 privately-owned dwellings have been improved without grant aid.

The question of practical constraints applies to a few small terraced type houses where physical difficulties for internal and environment improvement arise, owing to lack of space and bad siting.

Details of the Survey are as follows :-



## HOUSING SURVEY

For the purposes of these statistics houses in the following areas have not been included :-

- (a) Hare and Hounds Street redevelopment area
- (b) General Improvement area ( these are given separately )
- (c) Monday Market Street
- (d) Council houses
- (e) Houses built to a modern standard

Total number of houses inspected ..... 462  
 (287 or 62.12% of these were owner/occupied)

The degree of disrepair -

£0	-	£50	.....	89 houses
£50	-	£100	.....	39 "
£100	-	£150	.....	19 "
£150	-	£200	.....	8 "
£200+			.....	31 "

A. Total number of houses having all amenities and no disrepair 331

B. Total number of houses having all amenities and some disrepair 44 (+2 to be demolished)  
 Of these, 22 are owner-occupied and the degree of disrepair -

£0	-	£50	.....	7 houses
£50	-	£100	.....	21 "
£100	-	£150	.....	5 "
£150	-	£200	.....	3 "
£200+			.....	8 "

Total estimated disrepair cost = £6,496 or £147.6 average cost per house.

(This estimated repair cost is somewhat high due to the inclusion of cost of stripping and underfelted roofs, works which are grant aidable. If the cost of these works were omitted then a more realistic figure of £85 - £90 would be obtained for each house)

C. Total number of houses lacking amenities but in good repair 26

Owner/occupied = 16 (approx. 8 listed buildings)  
 Tenanted = 10 (approx. 2 listed buildings)

D. Total number of houses lacking amenities and in disrepair = 55 (+4 to be demolished)  
 Owner/occupied = 19 (approx. 19 listed buildings)  
 Tenanted = 36 (approx. 8 listed buildings)

Total estimated disrepair cost = £15,038 or £273.42 per house.

Contd. ....



## Housing Survey (contd.)

### Generally

Following the survey until the end of the year houses from B,C, or D category came within the stages mentioned below :-

#### Modernised with Grant Aid - Works completed -

Discretionary	44 houses
Standard	112 houses

Works in progress not complete -

Discretionary	10 houses
Standard	7 houses

Works in planning stage -

Discretionary & Standard	9
-----------------------------	---

Total number of houses improved since the introduction of the Act in 1949 is 217 i.e. 131 standard and 86 discretionary grants. Of course other properties have been improved without grant aid either because owners did not wish to take advantage of the grant or did not wish to comply with the twelve point standard required by the Ministry in order to qualify for aid. In other cases where amenities were lacking owners have been encouraged to remedy this by obtaining a grant. It has been found that in the main the old and infirm are the most reluctant to apply for a grant because of the disturbance and inconvenience it would cause.

Total number of houses incapable of being improved up to a twelve point standard at reasonable cost is approximately four.

#### Age of Properties etc.

Total number of dwellings including those over  
business premises

business premises	.....	3346
Modern houses (post war)	.....	1395
20th Century (pre-war)	.....	91
19th Century	.....	439
18th Century	.....	197
17th Century	.....	14
16th Century	.....	6

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.



PROPOSED GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREA  
Long Street(part), Bridewell Street (part) and Morris Lane  
Report on Survey Completed

This area is situated within a short easy walking distance of the town centre and is comprised of the Masonic Hall, British Red Cross Devizes Divisional Headquarters (meeting and lecture hall), Labour Party Committee Room, Dentist's Surgery, two private lock-up garages, Devizes Heating Company Store and 52 houses (61/62 dwelling units) which are reasonably sound structurally having regard to their age varying from 68 to 250 years or more.

Nineteen dwellings in Long Street and Bridewell Street abut and have their front outer door opening direct on to the public footpath - these houses have no rear access. Houses in Morris Lane have forecourts and rear access.

Area (including half width of street)	2.25 acres
Dwelling unit area including half width of street	2.106 acres
Houses	52
Dwelling Units	62
Density: dwelling units	29.44 per acre
Habitable rooms in area	300
Habitable rooms per acre	142.5
Houses per acre	25.1
Persons per acre	50.8
Owner-occupied dwellings	75.43%
Listed dwellings	20 (likely to be increased to 35)
Properties acquired by the Council	4
Dwelling units inspected	61
Dwelling units with standard amenities	39
Dwellings requiring improvements	16 (action has been taken on 8 of these regarding improvements)
Dwellings requiring to be demolished	7
Dwellings requiring repairs	23
Properties with no rear access	19
Age of properties	68 (250 yrs. old or more)
Car-owners in area	20
Persons living in area	107 (44M 63F)
	below 10 yrs. 13 ( 6M 7F)
	above 65 yrs. 27 (10M 17F)

Analysis of Ages

Under 10 years		10 - 18 years		18 - 40 years		40 - 65 years		65+ years	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
6	7	4	5	20	19	4	15	10	17

Number of persons over age of 65 living alone - 11 (10F 1M)



### Occupants/Dwellings ratio:

8 adults occupy five one-bedroom houses  
24 adults and two children occupy twenty-one two-bedroom houses  
8 adults and one child occupy four three-bedroom houses  
10 adults occupy seven four-bedroom houses  
19 adults and seven children occupy six five-bedroom houses  
2 adults occupy one six-bedroom house  
2 adults occupy one seven-bedroom house  
2 adults occupy one two-bedroom maisonette  
2 adults occupy one one-bedroom second floor flat  
16 adults and four children occupy nine one-bedroom lettings.

### Accommodation:

Two storey - five one-bedroom, twenty-one two bedroom, two three-bedroom  
Three storey - two three-bedroom, seven four-bedroom, seven five-bedroom  
                    one six-bedroom, one seven-bedroom  
One one-bedroom flat (second floor)  
One two-bedroom maisonette (first and 2nd floors)  
Nine one-bedroom flats in three-storey building (multiple occupation)  
Five self-contained flats in a two-storey building (proposed)

### Occupation of Accommodation:

17 - Three-storey houses in single occupation  
25 - Two-storey houses in single occupation (this figure includes seven  
      houses scheduled for demolition)  
3 - Three-storey houses in multiple occupation  
1 - Maisonette over "Maslens' Archway" in single occupation  
1 - Flat on second floor over Dentist's premises - single occupation -  
   service tenancy.  
1 - Three-storey property in single occupation  
4 - Two-storey properties unoccupied.  
23 - Dwellings have all standard amenities but need repairs of varying  
     degrees, including roof repairs and underfeltting. Estimated cost  
     approximately £100 average.

Average estimated improvement cost of houses to be modernised .... £260  
(This figure does not include for either The Grange or  
19 Bridewell Street for which the cost would be much greater)

### Progress Report

A meeting of Officers of the Council and the Department of Environment and the Chairman, Alderman Duck, was held at Northgate Houses on the 3rd May to consider my report on the survey of the proposed general improvement area and the Borough Surveyor's plan showing suggested environmental improvement layout.

As the proposed scheme of the general improvement area principally depends on the demolition of listed properties Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9 Bridewell Street, to provide roadway access for environmental improvement to the hub of the properties, it was considered advisable prior to making a decision and formal application to consult the Department of Environment responsible for the preservation of listed buildings to ascertain if they would raise any objection to the demolition of these four houses. The outcome is awaited.



## IMPROVEMENT, STANDARD AND SPECIAL GRANTS

## Improvement Grants

Applications received during the year	10
Applications approved during the year	8
Approved expense of works	£18,272
Amount of grant approved	£8,884
Grants paid - number of dwellings	10
amount paid	£4,999

## Standard Grants

Applications received during the year	8
Applications approved during the year	8
Owner occupied	4
Other dwellings	4
Total amount of grant approved	£695
Grants paid - number of dwellings	11
amount paid	£1,982
Amenities provided :-	
Fixed baths	9
Wash-hand basins	9
Sinks	6
Hot & Cold water supplies	
- 3 points	5
2 points	5
1 point	0
Water Closets	10
Additional grant-aided work :-	
Number of bathrooms added	2
Number of piped water supplies installed	0
Number of septic tank or cesspool drainage systems installed	0

## Special Grants

No applications were received for special grants.



OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Class of Premises	Number of Premises registered during the year	Number of Registered Premises at end of year	Number of Registered Premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	3	47	17
Retail Shops	2	94	53
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	0	0	0
Catering Establishments open to the Public, Canteens etc.	1	15	13
Fuel Storage Depots	0	3	0
TOTALS	6	159	83
Number of visits to all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered Premises			130

Analysis of Workplace of Persons employed in Registered Premises  
at End of Year

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	417
Retail Shops	525
Catering Establishments open to the Public	85
Wholesale departments, warehouses	17
Canteens	3
Fuel Storage Depots	0
TOTAL	1047

Total: Males 396

Total: Females 651



## RODENT CONTROL

The Devizes Borough Council continue to share on a half-time basis the services of the Rodent Operative with the Devizes Rural District Council.

656 manholes were test baited at six-monthly intervals during the year. These tests proved that the sewers were vermin-free.

Below is a table extracted from the Annual Report as supplied to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the year under review.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
<u>PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS</u>		
1. Number of properties in district	3228	9
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	195	2
(b) Number infested by		
(i) Rats	67	1
(ii) Mice	12	1
3. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1566	25
Number infested by		
(i) Rats	39	0
(ii) Mice	5	0

Nuisances caused by pests received attention and related mainly to ants, red spiders, woodworm, wasps, flies and cockroaches in addition to rats and mice.



### COMPLAINTS

In the Table below are listed the various items which were the subject of complaint during the year:-

Noise	48	House Repairs	6
Clean Air	9	Dampness	5
Pests	35	Flooded Cellar	6
Rodent Control	41	Defective sanitary accommodation	5
Dirty Houses	5	Overcrowding	4
Odours	11	Hygiene complaint	3
Drains	19	Miscellaneous	5
Sub-standard accommodation	9		

### SUMMARY OF DUTIES

The following Table shows the number of inspections and visits performed in connection with the above-mentioned complaints and other matters requiring routine attention :-

<u>Food and Drugs Act 1955</u>		<u>Petroleum Acts</u>	
Broken down refrigerators	1	Inspections	52
Food premises	86	Installation of tanks	12
Food inspections	20	Filling abandoned tanks	4
Food stalls/Mobile vans	41	Pressure test of tanks and suction lines	8
School Kitchens	10		
Condemned foodstuffs	9	<u>Pests Act 1949</u>	
Ice-cream sampling	7	Rodent control	154
Dairies	5	Pest control	82
Milk sampling	39		
Water sampling	3	Complaints investigated	75
<u>Housing Acts</u>		Interviews, meetings etc. with Builders/Reps./Owners on site	80
Housing Surveys	318	Examination of deposited plans	20
Improvement Grant visits	179	Works in Progress	70
Qualification Certificates	7	Informal notices issued	122
Re-housing	7	Miscellaneous visits	206
Houses repaired	3	Smoke nuisances	8
Overcrowding	3	Noise Abatement	91
General Improvement Area		Clean Air	24
Visits/Inspections	80	Caravan Sites	12
Grant Works in progress	41	Zymotics	8
<u>Public Health Acts</u>		Toxic Waste Disposal	2
Drains - choked or defective	35	Scrap-metal Dealers	5
colour testing	36		
smoke testing	16		
water testing	12		
works in progress	87		
Dirty Houses	12		
Water in cellar (visits)	13		
Refuse	4		
<u>Offices, Shops and Railway</u>			
<u>Premises Act 1963</u>			
General inspections	66		
Revisits	7		
Works in progress	8		
Investigation of Accidents	3		



APPENDIX  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE  
YEAR 1972 FOR THE BOROUGH OF DEVIZES IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE  
Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the  
Factories Act 1961  
PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	45	14	6	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	5	-	-	-
TOTAL	51	14	6	-



## 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		Number of cases in which prosec- utions were instituted (6)
			to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2)	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Convenience (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6			
(c) Not seperate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences re- lating to Outwork)	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	6	6	0	0	0

## PART VIII OF THE ACT

### Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosec- utions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosec- utions (7)
Wearing ) Making Apparel ) etc., ) Cleaning ) and ) Washing	1	0	0	0	0	0





